

Vilkinson, Kris

From: Baker, Mary
Sent: Friday, February 15, 2013 8:59 AM
To: Wilkinson, Kris
Cc: Steab, Julie; Murry, Jim
Subject: RE: COPP Budget

Hi Kris,

We access those files constantly for two reasons;

1. Many of them are involved in complaint investigations so we refer to the file looking for notes, amendments, etc.
2. Public access, we get dozens of requests for information. We are required by statute to maintain our records for 10 years.

I agree fully that someday we would want a scanned/electronic file for each candidate and committee but we don't have staff or resources to handle a project of this size. All original reports from 2008 forward are scanned and stored on the server but again we don't have enough staff to scan every email, letter, amendment, etc. and that information is invaluable.

Hopefully this legislature will grant our request for funding for a new database and online service. Our goal is to eventually eliminate scans and have everything be electronically filed so it is searchable and both us and the public would have immediate access. Our current database and online service does not accommodate amended filings which makes things quite a bit more complicated. In order to get caught up on all of the back scanning we would likely need to hire a full time scan person for at least a year and triple our ITSD server space. It has been a slow migration to the twenty first century but we hope to get there but we are going to need some help.

One other problem we face is even though we want to move our candidates and committees to file electronically, there is always a ton of resistance. We may be able to convince the state district candidates to file electronically but the local political party committees are unlikely. They are generally retired people who are intimidated by computers. Currently only 27% of the political party committees use the online filing system. The incidental committees is even less because they usually only have to file one or two reports and don't want to bother with setting up an on-line account.

Great questions from the committee. I am open to any suggestions if they have some to offer.

Thanks

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